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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1956

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OF THE

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Town Hall,
Ulverston.
December, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area in acres | 8,022 |
| Population - Census, 1951 | 10,398 |
| - Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1956 | 10,330 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 3,485 |
| Rateable Value | £68,556 |
| Amount produced by a Penny Rate | £181,271 |

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow and in agriculture, but a number of light industries employ female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for the year 1956 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 154 births registered, 83 were males 5 being illegitimate, and 71 were females, of which 2 were illegitimate.

Approximately 65% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 48, Malignant growths 34 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 17.

| Year. | Live Births. | | Deaths (all causes) | | Stillbirths | | Maternal Mortality. | | Infant Mortality | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| | Number 1,000 regis- tered. | Rate per popul- ation. | Number 1,000 regis- tered. | Rate per popul- ation. | Number 1,000 regis- tered. | Rate per total births. | No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. | Rate per total births. | No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. | Rate per live births. | No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. |
| 1956 | 154 | x14.9 | 147 | x14.2 | 5 | 31 | Nil | Nil | 6 | 39 | 4 |
| 1955 | 148 | 14.3 | 141 | 13.7 | 2 | 13 | Nil | Nil | 6 | 41 | 4 |
| 1954 | 148 | 14.4 | 121 | 12.7 | 5 | 33 | Nil | Nil | 5 | 34 | 1 |
| 1953 | 136 | 13.2 | 126 | 12.3 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 6 | 44 | 5 |
| 1952 | 165 | 16.0 | 143 | 13.8 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 5.95 | 5 | 30 | 4 |
| 1951 | 161 | 15.6 | 170 | 16.5 | 4 | 24 | Nil | Nil | 9 | 56 | 5 |
| Average 5 years 1951-1955 | - | 14.7 | - | 13.8 | - | 17.6 | - | 1 | - | 41 | - |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 25 |

x Live birth rate (Comparability factor, 1.03) = 15.3 per 1,000

Death rate (Comparability factor, 1.04) = 14.8 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

| Years. | England and Wales. | | 160 smaller towns 25,000-50,000 population. | | Dalton-in-Furness Urban District. | |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Birth Rate | Death Rate |
| 1956 | 15.6 | 11.7 | 15.6 | 11.6 | 15.3 | 14.8 |
| 1955 | 15.0 | 11.7 | 14.9 | 11.6 | 14.8 | 13.1 |
| 1954 | 15.2 | 11.3 | 15.4 | 11.3 | 14.8 | 12.2 |
| 1953 | 15.5 | 11.4 | 15.7 | 11.3 | 14.3 | 11.9 |
| 1952 | 15.3 | 11.3 | 15.5 | 11.2 | 17.2 | 13.4 |

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District Council.
Grange-over-Sands Urban District
Council, Ulverston Rural District
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

W.W.JACKSON. C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Meat and other Foods Inspectors
Certificate R.S.I. Certificate in
Sanitary Science as applied to
Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent:-
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.
Housing Officer -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3455 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely 13. There are 17 houses supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

HOUSING.

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type, opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system and some are being allowed to fall into disrepair on account of the high cost of repairs and low rents. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness.

| | <u>Flats</u> | <u>Houses.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Number of new houses erected during the year:- | | |
| (1) By local authority | Nil | 6 |
| (2) By other local authorities | Nil | Nil |
| (3) By other bodies or persons | Nil | 6 |

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) | 38 |
| | (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose. | 65 |
| (2) | Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit: | |
| | (a) Number found during the year | 2 |
| | (b) Total number existing at end of year | 1 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit: | 30 |

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year 4

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

| | <u>Houses.</u> | <u>Persons Displaced</u> |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Houses demolished or closed during the year: | | |
| (a) Housing Act, 1936 | | |
| Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) | 1 | Nil |
| Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force | 3 | 6 |
| Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) | Nil | Nil |
| (b) Housing Act, 1949: | | |
| Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) | Nil | Nil |
| (c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953: | | |
| Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2) | Nil | Nil |

Number of Houses.

(2) Repairs during the year:

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of <u>informal action</u> by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. | 23 |
| (b) | Public Health Acts - action after service of <u>formal notice</u> , Houses in which defects were remedied; | |
| | By owners | 9 |
| | By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c) | Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of <u>formal notice</u> (Sections 9,10,11 and 16) - Houses made fit: | |
| | By owners | Nil |
| | By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (d) | Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: | |
| | Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) | Nil |

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.

| | <u>No. of Schemes</u> | <u>Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected</u> |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Action during the year: | | |
| (a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority | 35 | 35 |
| (b) Approved by local authority | 33 | 33 |
| (c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry | Nil | Nil |
| (d) Finally approved by the Ministry | Nil | Nil |
| (e) Work completed | 29 | 29 |
| (f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above | 1 | |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details regarding the inspection of food is given in the Public Health Inspectors Report.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

Number of registered distributors operating from:-

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Dairies in the district | 3 |
| (b) | Dairy farms in the district | 17 |
| (c) | Shops in the district other than dairies | 1 |
| (d) | Premises outside the district | 3 |

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 54

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|
| No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1956 in respect of:- | "Tuberculin Tested" Milk | 6 |
| | "Accredited" Milk | Nil |

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 53

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|
| No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated" Milk. | Retail Distributors. | |
| | (a) "Pasteurised" | 7 |
| | (b) "Sterilised" | Nil |

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | | Sheep and Cows, Calves. | | Pigs |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----|------|
| Number Killed | 43 | 8 | 2 | 90 | 13 |
| Number Inspected | 43 | 8 | 2 | 90 | 13 |

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis. | 25.58% | - | - | - | - |

Tuberculosis only.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis | Nil | - | - | - | - |

Cysticercosis

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | Nil | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | Nil | - | - | - | - |

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the 5 years 1951-1955 compared with the numbers in 1956.

| Diseases | <u>Number of cases in year</u> | | | | | <u>1956</u> | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | Number of Cases | Removed to Hospital. | Deaths |
| Scarlet fever | 0 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 36 | 47 | 298 | 67 | 22 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping cough | 27 | 18 | 9 | 58 | 22 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Enteric fever | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dysentery | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebral spinal fever | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poliomyelitis | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Infective encephalitis | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post infective encephalitis | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Food poisoning | 0 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals. | 75 | 99 | 320 | 133 | 51 | 30 | 1 | 1 |

The incidence of infectious disease has been low throughout the year.

10 houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been disinfected by steam when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1956.

| Age Periods. | <u>New Cases.</u> | | | | <u>Deaths</u> | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15- | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20- | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25- | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35- | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45- | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55- | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 65- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 75 and upwards. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS. | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 15 | | 0 | | 3 | | 0 | |

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

| Years. | <u>New Cases.</u> | | | | <u>Deaths.</u> | | | |
|--------|-------------------|----|------------------|---|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 1945 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1946 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| 1947 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1948 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1949 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 1950 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1951 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1952 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1953 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1954 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1955 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1956 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

| Premises. | Number on Register. | Number of | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 11 | 11 | Nil | Nil |
| Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 35 | 27 | Nil | Nil |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS. 1948 - 1951

No action was required under the above mentioned Acts during 1956.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In making this Annual Report to you on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service for 1956, I am pleased to report that the work has proceeded normally, nothing of a serious nature having occurred. The absence from duty of the Surveyor over a large period of the year, caused quite a disturbance of regular routine work.

The repair of property appears to be easing some what, materials being more readily available than they have been for some years. The high level of costs was again a serious matter during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council has made thirty-three Improvement Grants during the year, chiefly to owner occupiers and whilst this work takes up a considerable amount of time, it is well worth while owing to the increased standard of housing accommodation which is produced. It is disappointing, however, that Landlords having property to let have not taken more advantage of this scheme.

MILK SUPPLY.

We had no unsatisfactory milk samples during the year. The number of milk samples taken were not many owing to the large percentage of milk pasteurised at the Barrow Dairies.

ICE CREAM.

There is no change to report under this heading, there still being only one Ice Cream Manufactory.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependant upon the demand at the time and it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be taken: the samples taken have proved satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and the one Knackers Yard.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Three hundred and fifty-seven visits were made to the various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good. The Food Hygiene Regulations, whilst causing a considerable amount of work, have been thoroughly beneficial and most of the smaller stores now carry only pre-packed articles of food.

The most noticeable improvements have been in butchers shops and the response here to the Food Hygiene Regulations has been most satisfying. The education of food handlers is carried on when visits are made to this class of premises, this being in my opinion the best method of carrying out the work.

The following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Fish.

2 stone kippers
1 stone haddock
1 stone fillett
3 tins fish

Meat.

10 tins of meat.

Fruit.

50 tins of fruit.

Vegetables.

8 tins peas.
5 tins beans.
1 tin carrots.
7 tins vegetable salad.

Miscellaneous.

26 tins of tomatoes.
17 tins of milk.
4 packets of cheese.
2 jars of peanut butter.
5 packets of cereal.
1 jar of Hcrlicks.
1 bottle of lemon juice.
47 tins of soup.
1 tin of coffee.
2 tins of spaghetti.
9 jars of jam.
2 jars of mincemeat.
1 jar of sauce.
1 jar of onions.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. biscuits.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. ground almond.
1 packet of sultanas
1 tin creamed rice.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continues to operate without undue complaint, the annual holidays being staggered over the summer without employing extra staff, a fact which entails some delay in the collection of refuse, but I feel that this is greatly to be preferred than a complete stoppage.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolation.

There are thirty-one privies, eight pail closets and thirty-four dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying places.

During the year 83 tons of waste paper valued at £600 and rags to the value of £24 were dispced of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1955 were 87 tons of paper valued at £720 and rags to the value of £19.

HOUSING.

The three bungalows of North Lodge still remain as the only temporary housing accommodation.

The number of houses which we have been able to let in the past two years, has dealt with the vast majority of bad housing conditions, but with the closing down of the Council's house building programme the number of urgent cases is expected to rise again.

The provision of bungalows for old people is still an urgent necessity. Whilst providing more suitable accommodation for the older people, transfers of existing tenancies could be made from our existing houses, thus making available a family unit for the re-housing of younger families at the reduced cost.

The clearance of slum property continues and we are well up to date with the programme submitted to the Central Government some time ago.

In conclusion it gives me great pleasure to put on record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, Medical Officer of Health and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson (who left the services of the Council in July) and Miss Beale, who followed her from that date, and the Cleansing Staff, without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. JACKSON.

Public Health Inspector.

